

REMARKS

Claims 5 and 6 are allowed, and claims 3, 4 and 9 are objected to as depending from a rejected claim.

Claims 1, 3 and 21 have been amended to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner in objecting to those claims.

Claim 1-12 and 21 remain in the application.

Claim 1, 2, 7, 10-12 and 21 stand as rejected as anticipated by an unpatentable over FR 2,355,197 under 35 USC 102(b) or 103(a).

Submitted herewith is an English translation of FR 2,355,197.

Reconsideration of the rejections of the claims based on FR 2,355,197.

Claim 1 has been further amended to better distinguish over FR 2,355,197.

Specifically, the isolator is now recited as completely enclosing the control end and as to preventing any contact between the control rod and housing when the linkage is operated.

In FR 2,355,197, the isolator sleeve 5 is open at the ends and direct contact between the housing 6b, 7 and control rod 4, 9 occurs when the linkage is operated.

Furthermore, the isolator sleeve is not compressed by the assembly of the housing pieces 6b, 7, 8b. Rather the isolator sleeve 5 is inserted and attached by adhesive (page 4, lines 9 and 10). There is no compression when assembled together. The compression of the isolator as claimed creates an interference fit which minimizes lash in the linkage system.

Accordingly claim 1 is urged to patentably define over FR 2,355,197. Since all of the remaining rejected claims are dependent thereon, the present application is urged to be in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 4, 2006

By: *John R. Benefiel*
John R. Benefiel
Reg. No. 24,889

280 Daines Street
Suite 100 B
Birmingham, Michigan 48009
Phone: (248) 644-1455
Fax: (248) 644-6530

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

It is hereby certified that this correspondence, along with any items referred to as being attached or enclosed, is being transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Facsimile No. 571-273-8300, on December 4, 2006.

By: *John R. Benefiel*
John R. Benefiel